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PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3245
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA// PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/425ABS IZMIR TU//CC// PRIORITY
RHMFISS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001985

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/02/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: PUSHING FOR DIALOGUE WITH THE KRG

REF: A. ANKARA 1959

[1](#)B. BAGHDAD 2422

Classified By: Charge Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Charge told Iraq Coordinator Celikkol August 1 that Turkey needed to expand its contacts with the GOI and to establish dialogue with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). She noted that KRG authorities possess the capability to take action against the PKK and continuing to refuse contact with Massoud Barzani is counter productive. She added that USG officials have been urging Barzani to take concrete steps to counter the PKK in northern Iraq, as well as to refrain from remarks that enflame the Turkish public.

[1](#)2. (C) Charge noted several possible opportunities, including on the margins of an Arab League meeting in early September, at UNGA, and an Expanded Neighbors Ministerial, where GOT officials might be able to meet with KRG counterparts who attend as part of a GOI delegation. She urged that they take advantage of such opportunities and move forward with meetings with KRG officials.

[1](#)3. (C) Celikkol agreed the GOT must eventually engage directly with KRG leadership. However, this was a political decision for Minister Gul. He noted that PM Maliki could make such a step much easier for Turkey by publicly condemning PKK terrorism during his August 7 visit to Ankara.

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